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ABSTRACT

This book provides many diverse ideas for creating a learning environment that is alive with discovery and discussion, but peaceful and respectful, too. The book offers activities and practices from classrooms all over the United States that focus on year-long practices that promote a sense of community: 20-minute class meetings, effective non-verbal cues that manage youngsters' behavior, teaching students to disagree without being disagreeable, procedures for putting away materials, getting into and out of groups, and more. It describes start-of-school ice breakers, chaos-busting classroom routines, and ways to turn competition into cooperation. The book provides information on how to guide thoughtful dialogues, tips for building listening skills, and across-the-curriculum projects that promote care. It contains ideas for involving family and community in classroom activities. The book will provide teachers with new ways of thinking about teaching, learning, and community building in the classroom and beyond. (CR)

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